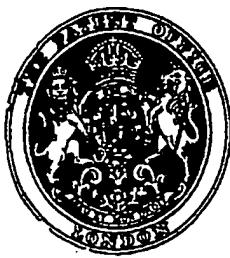


PATENT SPECIFICATION



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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to a Net for Camouflage Purposes or for Use as a Hunting Screen

We, OBERNDORFER GARDINEN-UND SPITZENWEBEREIEN GESELLSCHAFT MIT BESCHRÄNKTER HAFTUNG (formerly FRITZ ECKHARD GESELLSCHAFT MIT BESCHRÄNKETER HAFTUNG), residing at Oberndorf am Neckar, Germany, a Company organised under the Laws of Germany, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The invention refers to a small mesh net suitable for camouflage and hunting purposes, e.g., as a screen employed at shooting stands.

According to the invention, openings larger than the dimensions of the individual meshes are distributed over the net and are each provided with a bridge which separates it into two parts, each larger than a mesh of the net. These openings break up the uniform appearance of the net so that it may blend with the surroundings when in use. Furthermore, these openings or slots enable the net to be easily fastened to a support present in the surroundings, as for example to a branch, shrub, pole, temporary support or projecting part of a wall.

Furthermore, the openings provided in the net may serve as observation openings, permitting the use of binoculars, without risk of the observer being seen. Moreover, the barrel of a weapon, e.g., of a gun, can easily be inserted through the slots.

A further important advantage of the invention is that objects can be inserted between the bridge and the longitudinal edges of the openings, a fastening action between the net and objects being automatically achieved. Thus, these slots enable grass, ferns, branches or similar natural parts of the surroundings to be rapidly threaded through the bridged open-

ings and to be retained by the bridges against the net without becoming displaced when subjected to wind and other vibrations, thereby enhancing in a simple and extremely efficient way the camouflage effect.

In the above way the erection of camouflage excellently suited to the surrounding natural features may be obtained expeditiously with very little trouble. This camouflaged net is readily portable so that its position may be altered as often as required.

The bridged openings are distributed over the meshed fabric to suit particular uses and preferably comprise pairs of relatively short slots separated from each other by a fabric bridge. These slots may be arranged at various distances from one another. They may be uniformly distributed, for example, in rows over the width of the net. The openings in each row may be in line with or staggered with respect to the openings in the adjacent rows.

The slots may be formed during manufacture of the small mesh fabric and may also be reinforced in order to compensate for the decrease of strength in the net due to the provision of these slots. The slots preferably extend in the direction of the length of the net, but may also extend in the direction of the width.

Depending on a particular use and size of the net, it may be stiffened, preferably by metal wires or wire strands worked in during manufacture. Increased stability can also be imparted by stiffening the edges of the slots. The stiffening may be such that any desired shape is imparted to the net.

The net or net material may be dyed with dyes that are fast to light and atmospheric influences so as to improve the camouflage effect. For instance, the opposite surfaces of the net according to the

invention may be differently coloured so that depending on the natural surroundings one or the other side of the net may be placed outwards. For instance, one side may have a green ground shade and the other side a yellow clay-like colour. These ground colours may be accompanied by other colours applied to form irregular patterns that smoothly merge into the ground colour. Thus, one side of the net having, for example, a green ground shade may have fawn and olive areas and the other side may have yellow and olive areas. If one side has an olive ground shade it may be provided with additional fawn or green areas. The other side could then have additional clay-yellow and green colours. According to the colourings applied to the net, one or other side of one and the same net may be used to suit the general ground shades of the natural surroundings. By choice of net colours and colour contours light-and-shade effects may be obtained.

According to an optional feature of the invention, the nets may be impregnated with known agents to render them water repellent, non-inflammable and resistant to rotting.

According to a further optional feature of the invention, fastening elements, preferably along the edges of the nets, may be provided to supplement the slots in securing the nets in position. The edges of the net may be stiffened during manufacture as by applying cotton bands. The stiffened edges may be provided with attachment elements to enable the net to be placed or held in position or to enable several nets to be united into one large net.

One example of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Fig. 1 is a view of parts of two nets linked together;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view, on an enlarged scale, of part of Fig. 1.

Fig. 1 shows two nets 1 and 2 united at adjacent edges to form a large net. The individual nets 1 and 2 consist of regular small mesh textile netting having spaced pairs of parallel slots 3, each pair having an intervening bridge 4. In the example shown, these pairs of slots are formed during manufacture in the direction of the length in net 1 and in the direction of the width in net 2. Each pair of slots is in effect one large slot having a meshed bridge 4. To enable the retaining action of the bridges to be appreciated, it will be assumed that the net, for example net 2, extends upwardly from the ground. Branches of an available shrub are threaded through the bridged openings, for example by inserting the branches through

the lower slot 3 from the front of the net and bringing them back through the upper slot 3 after passing behind the mesh bridge 4. This bridge then acts to hold the threaded branches against the surface of the net.

The slots 3 are reinforced along their edges, as indicated by thickened lines in the drawing. Both nets 1 and 2 are provided with cotton bands 5 along their selvedges. Two selvedges of each net are provided with holes 6 fitted with dull metal eyelets and the two other selvedges are provided with hemp ties or cords 7 threaded at distances equal to those between the eyelets. In linking up the two nets to form one large net, it is merely necessary to place edges of the adjacent nets 1 and 2 one upon the other in such a way that a selvedge equipped with eyelets 6 lies upon a selvedge equipped with ties 7, so that the ties 7 can be pulled through the eyelets 6. In threading of the ties, the top tie is pulled up through the registering eyelet and is then inserted down the following eyelet through which the next tie is subsequently pulled, this being continued to obtain the desired linking length. The last tie pulled through the registering eyelet is knotted or otherwise fastened. This procedure results in a chain-type stitch effect. In this way, it is possible rapidly to link several nets together without any difficulty, even nets having selvedges of different lengths. The release of this fastening is extremely simple. It is merely necessary to undo the last tie, whereupon the two nets can be quickly separated from each other by a pull.

In addition to these ties 7, which like the slots 3 may be utilized to hang up or fasten the nets, further fastening devices may be provided at other parts of the selvedge borders 5, particularly at the corners. These corner fastening devices may consist of two adjacent eyeleted holes 8 and 9. A strong 10 is fixed in one of these holes 8 between the two knots 11 and 12 (see Fig. 2). The string 10 may either be tied to a tree or other support where the net is being used or the free end of the string 10 may be pulled through the second opening 9 and knotted as indicated at 13, Fig. 2, to form a loop, indicated by chain lines. This loop may be used for hanging up the net. Alternatively, the string 10 may be inserted again through hole 8 and its ends may be tied together to form a loop.

What we claim is:—

1. A small mesh net, suitable for camouflage and hunting purposes, in which openings larger than the dimensions of the individual meshes are distributed over the

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net and are provided each with a bridge which separates it into two parts, each larger than a mesh of the net, so that camouflage objects such as shrubs, grass or branches, when threaded through the bridged openings are retained by the bridges against the net.

2. A net according to Claim 1, wherein the openings comprise spaced pairs of rectangular slots, the slots of each pair being parallel to each other and being separated by an intervening bridge formed by the net meshes.

3. A net according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the openings are disposed in parallel rows.

4. A net according to Claim 3, wherein the openings in each row are in line with or staggered with respect to the openings in the adjacent rows.

5. A net according to any of the preceding claims, wherein one or more edges of the openings are reinforced.

6. A net according to any of the preceding claims, wherein stiffening threads are worked in with the normal net material.

7. A net according to Claim 6, wherein the stiffening threads comprise metal strands.

8. A net according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the edges of the net are reinforced with fabric bands.

9. A net according to Claim 8, wherein net-securing elements are provided in the fabric bands.

10. A net according to Claim 9, wherein an edge band of one net is provided with eyelet holes, and an edge band of an-

other net is threaded with strings, cords or the like for threading into the eyelet holes in such a manner that the two nets may be releasably joined together in edge-to-edge relation.

11. A net according to Claim 9 or 10, wherein the securing elements include one or more holes at the net corners.

12. A net according to Claim 11, wherein in at least one net corner has an eyelet hole in which is secured an attachment string, cord or the like.

13. A net according to Claim 11, wherein in a pair of holes is provided in the fabric band near at least one corner of the net, and a string, cord or the like is looped between the two holes and secured thereto.

14. A net according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the net material is dyed with dyestuffs fast to light and resistant to atmospheric influences.

15. A net according to Claim 14, wherein in the opposite surfaces of the net are differently coloured to form any desired colour pattern.

16. A net according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the net is impregnated with known agents to render it non-inflammable and resistant to rotting.

17. A net constructed and adapted for use substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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738,469 COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

This drawing is a reproduction of
the Original on a reduced scale.

